

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 136692
ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 SIG-03 ISO-00 SOE-02 AF-10
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TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY

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SUBJECT: MAY 30 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR
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PAGE 02 STATE 136692

1. MEDIA GAVE BROAD COVERAGE TO REMARKS OF NATIONAL
SECURITY ADVISER ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI SUNDAY ON NBC'S "MEET
PRESS." JOHN GOSHKO OF WASHINGTON POST REPORTED THAT "IN
SHARP INDICTMENT OF RECENT SOVIET ACTIONS, BRZEZINSKI
ACCUSED MOSCOW OF 'SUSTAINED AND MASSIVE EFFORT TO BUILD UP
ITS CONVENTIONAL FORCES, PARTICULARLY IN EUROPE,' OF
STRENGTHENING ITS FORCES ON SOVIET-CHINESE BORDER, OF MAIN-
TAINING 'VITRIOLIC WORLDWIDE PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN AGAINST
UNITED STATES,' OF TRYING 'TO ENCIRCLE AND PENETRATE MIDDLE
EAST' AND OF STIRRING UP 'RACIAL DIFFICULTIES IN AFRICA.'"

BRZEZINSKI SAID "THIS PATTERN OF BEHAVIOR I DO NOT BELIEVE IS COMPATIBLE WITH WHAT WAS ONCE CALLED CODE OF DETENTE." GOSHKO SAID BRZEZINSKI "MADE EXPLICITLY CLEAR THAT CARTER ADMINISTRATION INTENDS SOME KIND OF COUNTERING ACTION...IN LAYING DOWN THIS LINE, BRZEZINSKI SEEMED TO BE SIGNALING THAT THOSE IN ADMINISTRATION WHO WANT TO TAKE TOUGH LINE AGAINST SOVIETS AND CUBANS IN AFRICA HAVE GAINED UPPER HAND OVER FACTIONS IN STATE DEPARTMENT AND ELSEWHERE WHO ADVOCATE MORE MODERATE ACTIONS AND RHETORIC ON AFRICAN QUESTIONS."

2. MURREY MARDER OF WASHINGTON POST, COMMENTING ON BRZEZINSKI'S REMARKS, OBSERVED THAT "NEVER BEFORE HAS ANY SENIOR STRATEGIST IN CARTER ADMINISTRATION THROWN DOWN GAUNTLET TO SOVIET UNION SO STARKLY, AND AT SUCH SENSITIVE POINT." MARDER SAID BRZEZINSKI, DESCRIBING CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S TALKS WITH GROMYKO ON SALT TWO NEGOTIATIONS, SAID AGREEMENT IS "WITHIN GRASP, IF REASON PREVAILS." BRZEZINSKI SAID U.S. HAS MADE "VERY PROPER, BALANCED PROPOSALS" TO CONCLUDE NEW SALT AGREEMENT. "IF THEY ARE ACCEPTED, WE COULD HAVE AGREEMENT WITHIN DAYS," BRZEZINSKI SAID. "IF THEY ARE NOT ACCEPTED, WE WILL WAIT UNTIL THEY ARE ACCEPTED." MARDER SAID "BRZEZINSKI PROBABLY DID NOT INTEND HIS LANGUAGE TO SOUND AS TOTALLY INFLEXIBLE AS IT LITERALLY UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 136692

IS IN DIPLOMATIC TERMS. RUSSIAN SOURCES WHO HEARD IT IMMEDIATELY BRISTLED, AS ONE SAID, 'IF THAT IS WHAT CARTER ADMINISTRATION ACTUALLY MEANS.' 'THAT IS NOT NEGOTIATIONS,' SAID ONE SOVIET SOURCE, 'THAT IS AN ULTIMATUM.'" MARDER SAID "WHAT NOW WILL PREOCCUPY LEADERSHIP IN KREMLIN--AS IT WILL SENIOR OFFICIALDOM OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION--IS WHETHER BRZEZINSKI PRESENTATION IS CONTROLLING POLICY OF U.S. AND, IF IT IS CONTROLLING, WHAT U.S. WILL ACTUALLY DO TO TRY TO SUSTAIN IT. FROM ALL INDICATIONS IN WHITE HOUSE, BRZEZINSKI IS FAR CLOSER TO CARTER'S INCLINATIONS AT THIS STAGE THAN ARE SOFT-SPOKEN CY VANCE, ENTIRE HIERARCHY OF STATE DEPARTMENT, ACDA, AFRICA 'POINT MAN' ANDREW YOUNG AND HIS AMBASSADORIAL STAFF AT U.N., AND ALL OTHER ADVOCATES OF NON-STRIDENT POLICY INSIDE ADMINISTRATION."

3. CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER HUANG HUA, IN 65-MINUTE ADDRESS TO SSOD, SAID 31-NATION CCD HAS BECOME FORUM "WHERE SUPERPOWERS TALK SHAM DISARMAMENT AND OBSTRUCT GENUINE DISARMAMENT." ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORTED THAT CHINA, "IN WHAT COULD BE MAJOR POLICY CHANGE," INDICATED IT WOULD TAKE PART IN U.N. GATHERING OF ALL NATIONS TO DISCUSS DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY. AP SAID U.S. DISARMAMENT OFFICIAL CALLED THIS STATEMENT "SIGNIFICANT" AND ADDED, "I TAKE IT AS HOPEFUL SIGN THAT CHINESE NOW WANT TO GET BACK IN ON ARMS NEGOTIATIONS."

4. ROBERT KAISER OF WASHINGTON POST, IN LENGTHY NEWS ANALYSIS, OBSERVED THAT SELLING SALT TWO AGREEMENT TO

SENATE "MAY BE LEADING POLITICAL MELODRAMA OF MONTHS AHEAD." THERE ARE SENATORS ON ALL SIDES OF ISSUE WHO PREDICT NOW THAT SALT AGREEMENT COULD NOT BE APPROVED, KAISER SAID. OTHER MEMBERS AND AIDES REJECT GLOOMIEST VIEW AS UNWARRANTED, HE ADDED. "THEY SEE MANY ARGUMENTS THEY REGARD AS PERSUASIVE THAT SALT SUPPORTERS WILL BE ABLE TO ADVANCE IN DEBATE, AND THEY POINT TO POPULAR SUPPORT FOR ARMS CONTROL REPEATEDLY EVIDENCED IN POLLS. GREAT DEAL UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 136692

WILL DEPEND ON STATURE AND POLITICAL EFFECTIVENESS OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION AT TIME OF FINAL SALT DEBATE, AND SKILL WITH WHICH ADMINISTRATION CAN MANAGE SALT BETWEEN NOW AND THEN. ANOTHER CRUCIAL BUT UNPREDICTABLE ISSUE IS DEGREE TO WHICH EVENTS NOT DIRECTLY TIED TO SALT--IN AFRICA PARTICULARLY--MIGHT INFLUENCE SENATE VOTE." KAISER SAID THERE ARE "GOOD TECHNICAL ARGUMENTS" FOR SALT AGREEMENT. "RECENT MEETING OF GENERALLY PRO-SALT SENATE AIDES PRODUCED UNEXPECTED OPTIMISM, ACCORDING TO SEVERAL PARTICIPANTS, THAT DEFENDERS COULD GET BEST OF AN ARGUMENT ON ITS MERITS." KAISER ALSO SAID "WARNKE CAN STEP ASIDE AFTER AN AGREEMENT IS NEGOTIATED, ELIMINATING MAJOR ELEMENT OF 'CONFIDENCE' PROBLEM. SEVERAL WELL-INFORMED SOURCES THINK THAT WHITE HOUSE AND WARNKE WOULD SEE THIS, TOO, AND THAT HE WOULD RETURN TO HIS LAW PRACTICE RATHER THAN BECOME AN ISSUE IN RATIFICATION DEBATE. ADMINISTRATION COULD THEN RELY ON SPOKESMEN WITH HARDER-LINE REPUTATIONS--PARTICULARLY DEFENSE SECRETARY HAROLD BROWN--TO SELL SALT TO SENATE."

5. IN ANOTHER NEWS ANALYSIS OVER WEEKEND, WASHINGTON POST'S MURREY MARDER SAID KEY TO ADMINISTRATION STRATEGY IN AFRICA IS TO DETER KREMLIN FROM WHAT WHITE HOUSE PLANNERS SEE AS TEMPTATION TO SUPPORT, AND EXPLOIT, "RED-WHITE-BLACK" MILITARY CONFLICT OVER RHODESIA. "THIS IS REASONING BEHIND INCREASINGLY ALARMIST TONE OF ADMINISTRATION PRONOUNCEMENTS ON SOVIET-CUBAN ACTIONS IN AFRICA, AUTHORITY SOURCES CONCEDE IN PRIVATE. FUROR, IN TURN--BY DESIGN--IS JEOPARDIZING PROSPECTS FOR ANY EARLY CONCLUSION OF NEW AMERICAN-SOVIET TREATY TO LIMIT INTERCONTINENTAL NUCLEAR MISSILES AND BOMBERS." MARDER SAID A LARGE AND BROAD SPECTRUM OF OPINION IN CONGRESS SHARES, AS "WHITE HOUSE STRATEGISTS CONFIDENTLY PUT IT, 'OUR APPREHENSION' UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 136692

ABOUT SOVIET POTENTIALITIES IN AFRICA AND NEED TO CHECKMATE THEM--EVEN AT PRICE OF CONTINUED DELAY IN CONCLUDING CURRENT FOUR-YEAR-OLD STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TALKS."

6. RICHARD BURT OF NEW YORK TIMES QUOTED ADMINISTRATION

OFFICIALS AS SAYING THAT SOVIET UNION HAD SNAGGED SALT TWO NEGOTIATIONS BY DEMANDING THAT U.S. RESTRICT NUMBER OF CRUISE MISSILES THAT COULD BE PLACED ABOARD AMERICAN BOMBERS. OFFICIALS SAID IN RECENT TALKS SOVIET NEGOTIATORS HAD INSISTED THAT UNDER NEW ACCORD U.S. SHOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO DEPLOY MORE-THAN 20 CRUISE MISSILES ON EXISTING OR FUTURE AIRCRAFT. BURT SAID ADMINISTRATION HAS APPROVED DEVELOPMENT OF NEW WIDE-BODIED BOMBER THAT WOULD CARRY UP TO 80 CRUISE MISSILES. "AS RESULT, AMERICANS ARE SAID TO BE RESISTING SOVIET DEMAND, AND WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL ADDED THAT ADMINISTRATION WAS 'NOT PREPARED' TO CONCEDE ISSUE... DESPITE THIS NEW PROBLEM, OFFICIALS REMAIN OPTIMISTIC OVER CHANCES OF COMPLETING NEW ACCORD THIS SUMMER." VANCE

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